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General Counsel

January 15, 2016

Economic Dev. & Intergovernmental Relations Committee
c/o Pamela Ann Ison, Chief of Policy, Committee Consultant
Office of Councilmember Myrtle Cole
Fourth Council District
City of San Diego
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VIA U.S. MAIL & E-MAIL

Subject: Referred Action Item from the Charter Review Committee on Dec. 3, 2015:
SDCERS' Recommendation to Amend the San Diego City Charter to Allow Port
and Airport Employees to Run for a Seat on SDCERS' Board of Administration

Dear Honorable Members of the Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations
Committee:

On December 3, 2015, the Charter Review Committee asked this Committee to make a recommendation regarding whether or not to amend the Charter to allow employees and retirees of the San Diego Unified Port District ("Port") and San Diego County Regional Airport Authority ("Airport") to run for a seat on SDCERS' Board of Administration. I write in support of the amendment.

As background, SDCERS administers the defined benefit plans of the City of San Diego, Port, and Airport. SDCERS' Board of Administration consists of 13 trustees. (SD City Charter §144). Seven of the trustees are independent (*i.e.*, not members of SDCERS), appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. One trustee is a City management employee that serves at the pleasure of the Mayor. The remaining five trustees are elected by the membership: One Safety Police member, one Safety Firefighter member, two General members, and one retired member. Currently, only City employees and retirees can serve in these elected seats. While Port and Airport employees are allowed to vote for those running for one of these seats, they are not allowed to be elected to one of these seats, despite long participation in SDCERS.

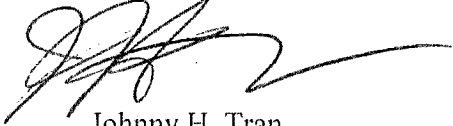
SDCERS is recommending the Charter be revised to allow Port and Airport employees and retirees to run for the elected General, Safety Police and retired member seats. This will broaden the pool of qualified candidates—which is in everyone's interest—and, if elected, give Port and Airport employees representation on the SDCERS Board. Notably, the proposed amendment does not guarantee a Port or Airport employee a seat on the Board; the amendment simply allows

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such employees to run for a seat. Furthermore, even if Port and Airport employees were elected to the Board, the mayoral appointees and City Management employee will always be the majority of the Board.

The proposed amendment promotes the democratic process and is good governance. The Port and Airport strongly support this proposal and I ask that the Committee recommend the amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Tran', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Johnny H. Tran
SDCERS General Counsel

JHT/jt

cc: Mark Hovey, SDCERS Chief Executive Officer
Karen Porteous, San Diego Unified Port District
Michelle Corbin, San Diego Unified Port District
Ellen Gross, San Diego Unified Port District
Jeff Lindeman, San Diego County Regional Airport District
Kurt Gering, San Diego County Regional Airport District
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Steven Hadley, Committee Consultant, District One
SDCERS Board of Administration